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PAGE 01 STATE 142791

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 142791

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EWT, RO

SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU VISIT TO US

1. SUMMARY: ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU MADE BRIEF STOP IN WASHINGTON ON JUNE 11 ON RETURN TRIP TO BUCHAREST FROM BRAZIL AND MEXICO. HE HELD TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD, CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF US JEWISH COMMUNITY. A WIDE-RANGING HOUR AND TEN MINUTE DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT FORD COVERED OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING PENDING TRADE AGREEMENT, AS WELL AS SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL TOPICS. TALKS WITH CONGRESSIONAL AND JEWISH LEADERS CONCERNED EMIGRATION ISSUE AND ITS RELATION TO TRADE AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY
2. WASHINGTON STOPOVER AND MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD WERE ARRANGED AT REQUEST OF ROMANIANS. CEAUSESCU APPARENTLY WAS ANXIOUS TO SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONAL CONTACT WITH
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PAGE 02 STATE 142791

PRESIDENT FORD. PRESS RELEASE GIVEN AFTER MEETING INDI-

CATED RANGE OF TOPICS COVERED INCLUDING CSCE, MIDDLE EAST AND CYPRUS. ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO NOTED THAT PRESIDENT HAD QUOTE CONVEYED HIS EXPECTATION THAT THE VISIT (HIS VISIT TO ROMANIA) WOULD TAKE PLACE AT THE EARLIEST MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME UNQUOTE.

3. MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSIONAL AND JEWISH LEADERS AS LOBBYING EFFORT IN SUPPORT OF TRADE AGREEMENT APPROVAL WERE LESS THAN SMASHING SUCCESS, ACCORDING TO REPORTS DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED. CEAUSESCU APPARENTLY SOUGHT TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR AGREEMENT ON BASIS OF RECITAL OF ROMANIAN PAST RECORD ON JEWISH EMIGRATION AND GAVE LITTLE INDICATION OF EXPECTED FUTURE PERFORMANCE. BOTH CONGRESSIONAL AND JEWISH GROUPS EXPRESSED STRONG VIEW THAT SOME CLEAR EVIDENCE OF IMPROVED ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE ON EMIGRATION WOULD BE NEEDED FOR TRADE AGREEMENT TO OBTAIN APPROVAL.

4. IN SEPARATE MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF COMMERCE MORTON, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND PRINCIPAL ADVISOR ON ECONOMIC POLICY OPREA APPEALED FOR MORTON'S SUPPORT WITH CONGRESS ON TRADE AGREEMENT. OPREA ALSO CALLED FOR MUTUAL EFFORTS TO INVENTORY CURRENT STATUS OF US-ROMANIAN BUSINESS NEGOTIATIONS ON JOINT VENTURES, COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND OTHER FORMS OF ECONOMIC INTERCHANGE WHICH COULD BE DISCUSSED AT FALL MEETING OF US-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION OPREA EXPRESSED INTEREST IN USING THIS MEANS TO HELP INSURE THAT PROGRESS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD MOVE RAPIDLY FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF TRADE AGREEMENT.

5. A RANKING ROMANIAN FIGURE IN CULTURE AND EDUCATION, DUMITRU POPESCU, CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION, MET WITH USIA DIRECTOR KEOGH FOR REVIEW OF ASPECTS OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES PROGRAM. SEPTEL ADVISED BUCHAREST OF DETAILS OF THIS CONVERSATION. KISSINGER

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